2014-R-0186

SMALL BUSINESS FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AND TAX INCENTIVE PROGRAMS

By: John Rappa, Chief Analyst Heather Poole, Legislative Analyst I

STATE, FEDERAL, AND NONPROFIT SMALL BUSINESS **ASSISTANCE AGENCIES**

State:

- Connecticut Innovations, Inc.
- Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD)
- Department of Labor (DOL)
- Office of Policy and Management (OPM)

Federal:

Small Business Administration, Department of Commerce (SBA)

Nonprofit:

Connecticut Community Economic Development Fund (CEDF)

Summarize state, federal, and nonprofit programs providing grants, loans, and tax breaks to small businesses (business assistance programs). This report updates OLR Report 2011-R-0452.

SUMMARY

Most state, federal, and nonprofit business assistance programs serve large and small businesses, although some, like Connecticut's Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) Small Business Express Program (Express), serve only small businesses.

The criteria small business assistance programs use to determine a business' eligibility vary. For example, DECD's Express is open only to businesses with 100 or fewer employees while the nonprofit Community Economic Development Fund's loan guarantee programs are open only to businesses with 50 or fewer employees.

This report summarizes state, federal, and nonprofit business assistance programs, identifying those limited to small businesses. It does not include municipal property tax exemptions for constructing or renovating business facilities. Attachment 1 summarizes the programs providing grants, loans, and other types of financial assistance. Attachments 2 and 3, respectively, summarize the state and federal programs providing tax incentives.

The number of business assistance programs and implementing agencies could make it hard for small business owners to identify the ones that meet their needs. But several organizations can help perform this task, including the following:

- Connecticut Economic Resource Center's Business Response Center (http://www.cerc.com/Content/Connecticutand 39 s Business Response C enter.asp),
- 2. DECD's Small Business Affairs Office (http://www.ct.gov/ecd/cwp/view.asp?a=3931&q=462650), and
- 3. The Small Business Administration (SBA) (http://www.sba.gov/category/navigation-structure/loans-grants).

Attachment 1: Small Business Financial Assistance Programs by Agency

Program	Assistance Limits	Assistance Terms	Eligible Uses		
Community Economic Development Fund (CEDF)					
Three separate Micro Loan Guarantees for Business Owners employing 50 or fewer employees (two programs targeted to specific geographic areas, one targeted to women and minority owners)	30% loan guarantee	Terms and conditions tailored to help business secure bank loan	Working capital Machinery and equipment Inventory		
CEDF-administered Small Business Administration Micro Loans	Maximum \$50,000, but this SBA funded loan can be combined with other loans for a total loan package of up to \$150,000	 Up to six years loan repayment Payment amounts based on business' cash flow Personal guarantee and pledge of business assets 	Working capitalMachinery and equipmentInventory		
Standard Loans for businesses in eligible communities or business owners with household incomes less than \$85,700	\$50,000-\$250,000	 Up to 10 years loan repayment Payment amounts based on business' cash flow Personal guarantee and pledge of business assets Fixed and variable interest rates 	Working capital Machinery and equipment Inventory Owner-occupied real estate		
Grow Your Business Loans for businesses in eligible communities or business owners with household incomes less than \$85,700	\$50,000 to \$250,000	Business in existence for at least three years Up to 10 years loan repayment Payment amounts based on business' cash flow Personal guarantee and pledge of business assets Interest rate equals prime rate plus 4%	 Fund expansion of existing business Working capital Machinery and equipment Inventory Owner-occupied real estate 		
Connecticut Innovations,	Inc. (CII)				
Urbank	30% first-loss loan guarantee for up to \$500,000	 15-year loan maturity Interest rate and other terms set by lender Capable of repaying debt 1.5%-2.5% borrower fees 	Working capital Machinery and equipment Purchase, construct, expand, or upgrade facilities		
Line of Credit	\$250,000-\$1 million	 Business in existence for at least three years Owner's personal guarantee Demonstrate ability to create or retain jobs Capable of repaying debt 	Revenue producing equipment Information technology upgrades Building expansions		
Early Stage Business Loans	Up to \$ 5 million	 Based on business opportunity Owner's personal guarantee Equity interest Maturity tailored to transaction 	Working capital Machinery and equipment Purchase, construct, expand, or upgrade facilities Mortgages on owner-occupied real property		

Program	Assistance Limits	Assistance Terms	Eligible Uses
<u>Direct Loans</u>	Up to \$5 million	 Business in existence for at least three years Owner's personal guarantee Demonstrate ability to create or retain jobs Capable of repaying debt Up to 25 years repayment 	Working capital Machinery and equipment Purchase, construct, expand, or upgrade facility Mortgages on owner-occupied real property Brownfields cleanup and redevelopment
Guaranteed Loans	Guarantee up to 40% of principal	Owner's personal guarantee \$20,000 per job created or retained Capable of repaying debt Up to 20 years repayment Firm must sell most of its products and services out of state and create jobs Interest rate, terms, and maturity determined by lender 1.5% commitment fee (up to \$25,000) 2.0% annual guarantee fee	Working capital Machinery and equipment Purchasing, constructing, expanding, or upgrading facility Mortgages on owner-occupied real property Brownfields cleanup and redevelopment Finance foreign trade or receivables
Participation Loans	Up to \$5 million "junior participation" loan matching conventional bank loan plus 50% CI share in project cost	 Business in existence for at least three years Owner's personal guarantee Demonstrate ability to create or retain jobs Capable of repaying debt Bank determines interest rate, terms, and maturity; proportionately shares fees and interest with CI; and services the loan 	Working capital Machinery and equipment Purchasing, constructing, expanding, or upgrading facility Mortgages on owner-occupied real property Brownfields cleanup and redevelopment
CII-administered Small Business Administration 504 Debentures	SBA guarantee up to \$4 million	 Lender provides 50% of investment at fixed or variable rate Business provides 40% through sale of long-term debenture (unsecured bond) guaranteed by SBA and funded by private sources Business provides remaining 10% 	Machinery and equipment Purchase, construct, expand, or upgrade facility Leasehold improvements Owner-occupied buildings
Technology-Intensive Businesses and Projects	Up to \$5 million	 Up to 20-year terms Appropriate to business opportunity Owner's personal guarantee Equity interest when appropriate \$20,000 per job created or retained 	Working capital Software, hardware, and infrastructure Machinery and equipment Purchase, construct, or expand facilities
Direct Inducement Loans	Up to \$5 million	 Up to 20 years \$20,000 per job created or retained 	Working capital Machinery and equipment Purchase, construct, or expand facilities Mortgages on owner-occupied property
Seed, Pre-seed, and Early Stage Investments	\$500,000 to \$1 million per round in technology-based businesses	Investments based on:	Operating expenses incurred while developing new ideas or concepts for commercially viable products and services

Program	Assistance Limits	Assistance Terms	Eligible Uses
Connecticut Bioscience	Up to \$500,000 in project funding	Terms depend on the type of assistance received	Project expenses
Innovation Fund	in secured loans and/or equity	Projects must demonstrate a quantifiable commercial return on investment	
Regenerative Medicine	Up to \$1.5 million in research	Grant terms and conditions determined by advisory board based	Direct and indirect project costs
Research Fund (formerly	grants	on grant's purpose	Facilities
Stem Cell Research Fund), (PA 05-149, PA 14-98, §§			
32-40)			
	and Community Development		
Connecticut Credit	Up to \$500,000 in direct loans	Up to 10-year term	Machinery and equipment
Consortium Program (for	and credit lines	4% interest rate	Land and facilities
businesses with 50 or fewer			Property improvements
employees) Small Business Express	\$10,000 \$100,000	During a basic particular of the conduct business in	Donah saiga gasakis sagada sagingsagt
Program, Revolving Loan	\$10,000-\$100,000	Business has been registered to conduct business in	Purchasing machinery and equipment
Fund (100 or fewer		Connecticut for at least a year	Construction or leasehold improvements
employees)		Up to 4% interest	Relocation costs
employees)		Maximum 10-year term	Working capital
		DECD determines other loan terms, conditions, and collateral requirements to prioritize job growth and retention	Other commissioner-approved expenses
		No delinquent state or local taxes	
Small Business Express	\$10,000–\$300,000 potentially	Business has been registered to conduct business in	Training
Program, Job Creation	forgivable loans	Connecticut for at least a year	Marketing
Incentive Loans (100 or		Up to 4% interest	Working capital
fewer employees)		Up to 10-year term	Other commissioner-approved expenses
		Loan forgiveness based on attainment of job goals	that support job creation
		DECD determines other loan terms, conditions, and collateral	
		requirements to prioritize job growth and retention	
		No delinquent state or local taxes	
Small Business Express	\$10,000–\$100,000 grants	Business has been registered to conduct business in	Training
Program, Matching Grants		Connecticut for at least a year	Working capital
(100 or fewer employees)		No delinquent state or local taxes	Acquiring machinery and equipment
		Business must match state grants	Construction or leasehold improvements
			Relocation within state
			Other commissioner-approved expenses

Program	Assistance Limits	Assistance Terms	Eligible Uses
Manufacturing Assistance Act (MAA)	Fixed percent of costs depending on project's location or purpose Range: Up to 90% in 17 targeted investment communities to up to 50% of costs in other communities	Commissioner sets terms and conditions State Bond Commission sets interest rate	 Feasibility studies, engineering, appraisals, and other planning activities Property, machinery, and equipment purchases Facility construction and site improvements Relocation costs Working capital Job training, day care, energy conservation, pollution control, and other specified business support services
First Five Program	Up to 100% MAA for up to 15 projects meeting specified employment and investment targets	Commissioner sets terms and conditions	Same as above
Connecticut Manufacturing Innovation Fund (PA 14-98 §§ 47-49)	Grants, loans, credit extensions, vouchers, and other types of assistance to businesses specializing in technologically advanced products and services, entities leveraging federal grants, and certified education or training programs Assistance limits determined by the Manufacturing Innovation Advisory Board	Terms set by the Manufacturing Innovation Advisory Board	 Facilities costs Furniture, fixtures, or equipment Tooling development and manufacture Materials and supplies Proof of concept Research and development Compensation and apprenticeships Other costs board deems eligible
Department of Labor	•		
Small Business <u>Subsidized</u> <u>Training and Employment</u> <u>Program</u> (STEP UP)	Up to \$20 per hour subsidy for new employee's training and compensation Subsidy amount phases out over employee's first six months of employment	Business must hire new employee who: was unemployed immediately before being hired and has a family income of less than 250% of federal poverty level	Subsidize employment and training costs
Small Manufacturer Training Grant Program (STEP UP)	Monthly grants subsidizing new employee training and compensation Initial grants up to \$2,500; grant amount phases out over six months	Business must hire a new employee	Training and compensation

Program	Assistance Limits	Assistance Terms	Eligible Uses
Unemployed Armed Forces Member STEP UP Program	Up to \$20 per hour (maximum \$12,500) subsidy for veteran's employee training and compensation Subsidy amount phases out over 6 months of employment	Business must hire a new employee who: served in the Armed Forces or reserves and was honorably discharged and was unemployed immediately before being hired	Subsidize employment and training costs
New Apprentice STEP UP (PA 14-38)	Up to \$10 per hour subsidy for apprentice's training and compensation Subsidy amount phases out over 6 months of employment	Business must hire a new employee who is a student at a high school, preparatory school, or higher education institution	Subsidize employment and training costs
Federal Small Business A			
CDC/504 Loan Program (for businesses with net worth under \$15 million and after tax income under \$5 million)	Maximum \$5 million loans (\$4 million for small manufacturers or \$5.5 million for those meeting energy reduction goals)	 Create or retain one job per \$65,000 of SBA assistance (\$100,000 per job created or retained for small manufacturers) 10-20 year loan terms 	 Land and building acquisition Property improvements Facility construction, renovation, or conversion Machinery and equipment purchase
7(a) Loan Guarantees	Maximum \$5 million loans 85% guarantee for loans up to \$150,000 and 75% for loans above that amount	Loan term varies depending on purpose	 Short- and long-term working capital Land acquisition Building construction or renovation Business expansion Debt financing

Attachment 2: State Business Tax Incentives

Name and Agency	Applicable Business Taxes	Eligibility	Incentive Amount
Rehabilitation of Historic Business Property for Mixed Residential and Commercial Use (PA 14-217, §§ 165-68, Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD)	 Insurance Premium Corporation Air Carrier Railroad Company Community Antenna Utility Companies 	Certified historic commercial, industrial, mixed residential and nonresidential, cultural, and former municipal, state, and federal property on the national or state Register of Historic Places or located in an historic district on the national or state register	Total credits capped at \$31.7 million per year beginning FY 16 25% of qualified rehabilitation expenditures; 30% if project includes units affordable to low- and moderate-income people No project can receive more than \$4.5 million Unused credits may be carried forward for up to five years
Manufacturing and Specified Service Facilities in Enterprise Zones, Enterprise Zone Municipalities, or Designated Airport Development Zones (DECD and Connecticut Airport Authority) (CGS § 12-217e)	Corporation	Based on developing facilities and creating jobs Facility must be: newly acquired, constructed, or improved located in the enterprise zone or in another part of the town with the zone used for manufacturing or specified financial services Business must have created jobs to do work in the facility	10-year credit against tax allocable to facility: 25% credit or 50% if at least 150 or 30% of new jobs are held by zone or city residents who qualify for federal job training assistance Credits automatic in zones; available to manufacturers outside the zone at state's discretion Specified service firms outside the zones qualify for credits under the program below
Service Facilities in Enterprise Zone Municipalities (DECD) (CGS § 12-217e)	Corporation	Based on developing facilities and creating jobs	10-year credit based on number of jobs created: 15%, 300-599 jobs 20%, 600-899 jobs 25%, 900-1,199 jobs 30%, 1,200-1,499 jobs 40%, 1,500-1,999 jobs 50%, 2000 or more jobs

 June 30, 2014
 Page 8 of 11
 2014-R-0186

Name and Agency	Applicable Business Taxes	Eligibility	Incentive Amount
Apprenticeship Training , Department of Labor (DOL) (CGS § 12-217g)	(S Corps and other business entities that are not subject to this tax may earn the manufacturing trade apprenticeship credit and sell, assign, or transfer it to another taxpayer)	Hiring manufacturing, plastics, or construction apprentices participating in state-approved apprenticeship training programs Businesses hiring plastics trade apprentices qualify if the number hired exceeds the average number of plastic apprentices hired during the prior five years	 Maximum \$7,500 or 50% of wages paid, whichever is less, for manufacturing and plastics trade apprentices Maximum \$4,000 or 50% of wages, whichever is less, for construction trade
Incremental Research and Development Expenditures, Department of Revenue Services (DRS) (CGS § 12-217j)	Corporation	Businesses that increase their R&D expenditures over the prior year	20% of the amount spent on R&D over the prior year's spending
Research and Development Expenditures (DECD) (CGS § 12-217n)	Corporation	Any business incurring R&D expenditures	 Credit amount determined according to statutory two-step formula Credits range from 1% for expenditures under \$50 million to 6% for expenditures over \$200 million Only one-third of credit can be taken per year Unused credits may be carried forward until fully taken
Research and Development Expenditures for Qualified Small Businesses (DECD) (CGS § 12-217n)	Corporation	Businesses with gross incomes under \$100 million	6% of total R&D expenditure Only one-third of credit can be taken per year Unused credits may be carried forward until fully taken
Research and Development Expenditures for Enterprise Zone Businesses (DECD) (CGS § 12-217n)	Corporation	Any business headquartered in an enterprise zone employing over 2,500 people and with annual revenues over \$3 billion	The greater of 3.5% of total R&D expenditure or the amount derived from the statutory two-step formula used by big businesses outside the zone
Machinery and Equipment (DRS) (CGS § 12-2170)	Corporation	Business must have increased the amount it spent for machinery and equipment used in Connecticut over the prior year's amount	Credit depends on the number of employees: • 10% for businesses with 250 or fewer employees • 5% for businesses with between 251 and 800 employees
Purchase of Electronic Data Processing (DRS) (CGS § 12-217t)	Unrelated Business Income of Nonprofit Corporations Air Carrier Railroad Company Community Antenna Utility Companies Insurance Premium Corporation	Businesses paying property taxes on computers, printers, peripheral computer equipment, bundled software, and similar equipment	Credit is 100% of property tax paid on electronic data processing equipment

June 30, 2014 Page 9 of 11 2014-R-0186

Name and Agency	Applicable Business Taxes	Eligibility	Incentive Amount
Fixed Capital Investments (DRS) (CGS § 12-217w)	Corporation	Property must: Have a minimum five-year class life Not be sold or transferred Be held or used in Connecticut	5% of fixed capital costs incurred during income year
Human Capital Investments (DRS) (CGS § 12-217x)	Corporation	Eligible activities include: job training work education child care subsidies day care facilities donations to colleges and universities for technology	5% of expenditure Unused credits may be carried forward for up to five years
Urban and Industrial Sites Reinvestment (DECD) (CGS § 32-9t)	 Insurance Premium Corporation Air Carriers Railroad Company Community Antenna Utility Companies Other specified business taxes 	Business investing in projects developing or redeveloping property, including brownfields, that meet statutory criteria, including generating new tax revenue and other economic benefits Business may invest the funds directly in a project or through a fund manager	Total credits available for all projects capped at \$800 million 100% credit, up to \$100 million, spread out over 10 years: 0% in first three years after the investment was made, 10% per year in the next four years, and 20% per year in the remaining three years Unused credits may be carried forward for up to five years or assigned to another taxpayer
Corporations Created in Enterprise Zones (DECD) (CGS § 12-217v)	Corporation	Corporation must be created in a zone and meet one of these job goals: • has at least 375 employees, at least 40% of whom reside in the zone or its city and qualify for federal job training assistance or • has less than 375 employees, at least 150 of whom reside in the zone or its city or qualify for federal job training benefits	10-year credit: • 100% for the first three years • 50% for the next seven years
Manufacturing Reinvestment Account (DECD) (CGS § 32-9zz, as amended by PA 14-69)	100% of the funds withdrawn from the account and used for eligible purposes are exempted from Corporation Personal Income	Up to 50 small manufacturers (150 or fewer employees)	 Up to five-year tax deferral on up to \$100,000 deposited in interest-bearing bank account. Funds withdrawn within five years are exempted from taxes if used for worker training, capital expenses, and other eligible uses.

June 30, 2014 Page 10 of 11 2014-R-0186

Attachment 3: Federal Tax Incentives

Program and Agency	Applicable Business Taxes	Eligibility	Incentive Amount
Section 179 Tax Deduction for qualifying purchases of property, Internal Revenue Service (IRS)	Corporation Personal Income	Wide range of depreciable tangible personal property, including: machinery and equipment office equipment gasoline storage tanks and pumps	Deduction equal to the cost of qualifying property, subject to dollar and business income limits determined by the type of property
Section 199 Domestic Production Activities Tax Deduction (DPAD); (IRS)	Corporation Personal Income	Eligible activities include: U.Sbased manufacturing selling, leasing, or licensing U.S. made goods selling, leasing, or licensing films produced in U.S. construction services related to a U.S. construction project	Generally, 9% of the smaller of: qualified production activities income or adjusted gross income for an individual, estate, or trust figured without the DPAD
Empowerment Zones (IRS)	Corporation	Businesses hiring zone residents or acquiring property eligible for Section 179 deduction	Wage credits of up to \$3,000 for qualifying employees Increased Section 179 deductions Increased Work Opportunity Tax credit
New Market Tax Credit (IRS)	Corporation	Corporations and individuals investing in eligible "Community Development Entities"	Credit equals 39% of original investment amount and is claimed over a 7-year period
Work Opportunity Tax Credits (IRS)	Corporation	Hiring and retaining veterans and people from other qualified groups	Tax credit amount varies from 25-40% of an individual's first year wages, depending which "target group" the individual belongs to

JR/HP:ro/am